

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 5, 11 and 23.

Please amend claims 2, 4, 13, 17 and 20 as follows:

2. (Twice Amended) The carpet of claim 20 [1], wherein said inherently compatible polyamide component has a concentration of titratable amino end-groups less than 30 milliequivalents per kilogram.

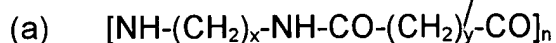
4. (Twice Amended) The carpet of claim 20 [1], wherein said inherently compatible polyamide polymer is substantially sulfonate-free.

13. (Amended) The carpet of claim 20 [1], wherein said fiber has a non-round cross section.

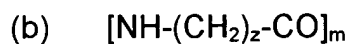
17. (Amended) The carpet of claim 20 [1] wherein said red drink staining depth is less than about 10 ΔE units

20. (Twice Amended) An acid-dye and coffee stain resistant carpet comprising:
a backing material; and
stain resistant sheath/core bicomponent face fibers affixed in said backing material and bound thereto;

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said face fibers comprising: a core of a first polyamide component; and a sheath occupying from about 3 to less than [about] 10 percent of the fiber and substantially or completely covering said core, said sheath comprising a second polyamide component which is inherently chemically compatible with said first polyamide component, said second polyamide component comprising at least one stain resistant polyamide polymer selected from the group consisting of:



where x and y may be the same or different integers from about 4 to about 30, the sum of x and y is greater than 13, and n is greater than about 40; and



where z is an integer from about 9 to about 30 and m is greater than about 40;

(c) derivatives of (a) or (b) including polymers substituted with one or more sulfonate, halogenate, aliphatic or aromatic functionality; and

(d) copolymers and blends of (a), (b) and (c);

wherein said fiber has a percent steam heatsetting shrinkage value which is about 70% or less of a percent steam heatsetting shrinkage value of an otherwise identical fiber consisting of only said first polyamide component; and

said carpet in an uncolored state having a red drink staining depth of less than 15 CIE ΔE units and a coffee staining depth of less than about 10 CIE ΔE units.